

expenditure exceeded the receipts by £1,878. The expenditure of Bruntsfield Hospital showed an increase of £4,947 over that for 1913. During the year 571 patients were admitted to the hospital, including 77 children; and 354 confinements were attended from the Hospice. In moving the adoption of the report, commenting on the increase in the number of cases treated in the venereal diseases department, Mrs. Hunter said there was a distinct reaction against women doctors in Scotland at the present time. She was sure the younger women had thought they would not have so much fighting to do to secure their positions. Recently the London Hospital had intimated that no more women students could be admitted. In Glasgow, as far as they could see, there was not the least prospect of any more women getting on the teaching staff of a hospital. The only way was for women to have hospitals of their own. Regarding the remark about the reaction against women doctors in Scotland it might be mentioned that recently there were twenty-five applicants, of whom twenty-three were women, for a vacancy in a provincial hospital for a house-surgeon.

MEMORIAL TO DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

A memorial tablet to the late Dr. Elsie Inglis was unveiled in St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on March 21st, by Dr. Mary Scharlieb, C.B.E. The inscription on the lower panel is as follows: "To the beloved and honoured memory of Elsie Maud Inglis, surgeon, philanthropist, founder in 1914 of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Service with the Allies in France, Serbia, and Russia. Born 1864. Died on active service 1917. *Mors janua vitae.*"

Correspondence.

A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HYGIENE.

SIR,—There can be little doubt that the subject of mental health, using the term in its widest sense, excites the interest both of the public and of the medical profession more now than it has ever done before. The recent establishment of a few hospitals and clinics for the treatment of "functional nervous disorders," which might be more scientifically labelled "minor disorders of the mind," affords evidence of the fact that the early recognition and treatment of these maladies is generally regarded as a matter of importance in relation to the health of the community. There are, moreover, many societies and associations, old and young, which are engaged in promoting the study of mental disorders, the welfare of the insane, the problems of industrial psychology, and the various aspects of mental deficiency.

A provisional committee of medical men, of which I have been appointed chairman, has decided to form a central organization, a National Council for Mental Hygiene, in order that the work of these institutions and societies shall be encouraged to expand and to add to their usefulness by organized co-operation. Such a National Council for Mental Hygiene will be concerned with other matters which have not yet received sufficient attention. It will help to establish psychological clinics at general hospitals for the treatment of early mental and nervous disorders. It will endeavour to make mental hygiene a more prominent subject in the education of medical students and, by instructing the public in the principles underlying mental health and illness, gradually diminish the enormous waste of time and energy in all classes of society which now results from widespread ignorance concerning these questions.

The conservation of mental health is a matter of serious economic importance to any nation, and this has been fully recognized in other countries, notably in America, where a National Committee for Mental Hygiene has been doing valuable work for a number of years. The chief purposes of that Committee are to work for the conservation of mental health; to promote the study of mental disorders, mental defects, and delinquency in all their forms and relations; to obtain and disseminate reliable data concerning them; to help to raise the standard of care and treatment; and to co-ordinate existing agencies—federal, State, and local.

These are ambitious schemes; but even a moderate amount of success would spell happiness and prosperity to many thousands of the population who must otherwise fail in the struggle for existence. Great Britain must not be less ambitious, and must be prepared to join with other nations in an International League, the objects of which will be to spread

the knowledge accumulated by each of its members in all matters of mental hygiene.

The provisional committee consists of: Sir Norman Moore, President of the Royal College of Physicians; Sir Charles Sherrington, President of the Royal Society; Sir John Goodwin, Director-General of the Army Medical Service; Sir George Newman, Principal Medical Officer, Ministry of Health; Sir Walter Fletcher, F.R.S., Secretary of the Medical Research Council; Dr. C. H. Bond, President of the British Medico-Psychological Association; Dr. Bedford Pierce, President of the Section of Psychiatry of the Royal Society of Medicine; Professor George Robertson, President-elect of the British Medico-Psychological Association; Dr. C. S. Myers, F.R.S., Director of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology; Dr. G. Ainsworth; Dr. Helen Boyle; Dr. Edwin Bramwell; Dr. Farquhar Buzzard; Sir Maurice Craig; Lord Dawson of Penn; Sir Bryan Donkin; Dr. Elliot Smith, F.R.S.; Dr. Edwin Goodall; Dr. Henry Head, F.R.S.; Dr. Crichton Miller; Sir Frederick Mott, F.R.S.; Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, F.R.S.; Sir Humphry Rolleston; Dr. T. A. Ross; Dr. Tredgold; Dr. W. Worth.

This committee will call a general meeting on May 4th, 1922, at the rooms of the Royal Society of Medicine, for the purpose of deciding on the constitution of the National Council, of electing officers, and other business. Meanwhile the honorary secretary will be glad to receive the names of all persons, lay or medical, who are interested in this movement and who would care to have more particulars sent to them. Communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, National Council for Mental Hygiene, 51, Green Street, W.1.—I am, etc.,

March 27th.

COURTAULD THOMSON.

REDUCTION OF MEDICAL FEES.

SIR,—At the time that the cost of living was at high-water mark or thereabouts I think I am right in saying that the Council of the British Medical Association recommended the profession to increase their fees by 50 per cent., and this, I believe, was generally done. Considering the financial crisis the country is now passing through and the reduced incomes of our patients, together with the somewhat reduced cost of living, I would like to suggest that the Council should again consider the advisability of recommending now a reduction of that 50 per cent. increase by, say, 20 or 25 per cent.

It is a well-known fact that throughout the country there is a feeling, owing to various causes, of antagonism to the profession, and I am convinced that no greater move to reduce that antagonism could be adopted than a spontaneous and voluntary reduction of the increase of fees which was adopted when the cost of living was so high and which was then quite justifiable.—I am, etc.,

Woldingham, Surrey, March 21st.

W. McD. ELLIS, M.D.

RESTRICTION OF INFLUENZA EPIDEMICS IN SCHOOLS.

SIR,—Influenza in a school is so serious a matter that I turned with interest to the article in your issue of March 18th by Dr. A. I. Simey and Dr. J. W. H. Eyre, entitled: "The restriction of influenza epidemics in schools by the use of local prophylactic vaccines." What Rugby does is of some importance, and, if I may say so, what Professor Eyre writes is of some importance. Yet I do not remember to have encountered figures in any published work which were more at variance with the conclusions drawn from them.

Three separate attempts were made by vaccination to avoid or mitigate the epidemic. A request was issued that boys should be vaccinated in the holidays. Of 570 boarders 123 complied. The remainder came back "uninoculated and susceptible." Although the authors do not analyse their figures from this point of view, it is clear from other statements that of those vaccinated at home 42 per cent. suffered, of those not vaccinated at home 43 per cent., despite the fact that many of these later received vaccination at school.

In the third week of the epidemic a stock vaccine was given at school to nearly all those who had not been vaccinated at home or who had not already sickened. Fifty boys received only the stock vaccine; 84 per cent. were infected.

Apparently the home inoculation was without result, and the stock vaccine according to the authors doubled the risk. A third vaccine was administered to an unspecified number of